

Appl. No.: 10/538,828
Amdt. dated June 18, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 18, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A longwall support control for controlling the movements of a plurality of ~~[[the]]~~ longwall support units ~~and the advance heading~~ in the longwall of a mine, comprising:

a central control system, and
~~a plurality of control units, of which~~ a separate mining shield control device ~~[[is]]~~ locally and operationally associated to each longwall support unit, the mining shield control devices being connected via radio to a decentralized operating device for inputting control commands and for feeding back inspection data,

wherein each mining shield control device comprises a multi-channel radio transceiver, such that the mining shield control device is in a simultaneous transmit and receive mode with the decentralized operating device for receiving control signals and for transmitting inspection data, and wherein the mining shield control device is programmed in such a manner that control signals that are received via radio, can be converted into functions of the longwall support unit when the control signal stores a code word that is associated with the called up mining shield control device, and

wherein the mining shield control devices are interconnected and also connected to a central control system via at least one bus line for transferring input data to all mining shield control devices.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The longwall support control of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the mining shield control devices are interconnected and also connected to the central control system by a parallel bus line.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The longwall support control of claim 1, wherein each mining shield control device comprises an amplifier for the control command signals that do not include a code word assigned to the respectively called up mining shield control device and which are received via the at least one of the bus line lines, ~~and which are not associated to the mining shield control device by their code word.~~

6. (new) The longwall support control of claim 1, wherein each mining shield control device comprises a switching element which permits the separation of the at least one bus line, the switching element being normally closed so as to allow signals to pass and being opened to effect a separation of the one bus line upon the occurrence of a failure.